

# REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



**To:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**Agenda Item #:** IV.D.

**From:** Wayne D. Houle, PE, Director of Engineering

**Action** ☒

**Discussion** ☐

**Date:** December 11, 2012

**Information** ☐

**Subject:** Public Hearing – Lake Edina Neighborhood Roadway Improvements No. BA-398,  
Resolution No. 2012-152

## **Action Requested:**

If the Council determines the project to be necessary, cost-effective, and feasible, Council shall adopt Resolution No. 2012-152 accepting the feasibility study and approving Lake Edina Neighborhood Roadway Improvements No. BA-398, authorize plans and specifications to be completed and bids taken.

## **Information / Background:**

City staff initiated this project. The project involves localized rehabilitation of the sanitary sewer, upgrades to the storm sewer system, upgrades to the water system such as replacement of gate valves and fire hydrants, curb and gutter spot repair, reconstruction of bituminous pavement, and potential sidewalks & sound wall beautification.

The overall project cost is estimated at \$5,587,500, which includes City owned utility repairs and replacement. Funding for the roadway and sound wall beautification will be from a special assessment of 100% of the roadway and sound wall beautification costs. All City owned utility repairs will be from the respective utility funds. Sidewalks would be funded by the Active Living Infrastructure Fund (ALIF).

Attached is resident correspondence since the submittal of the feasibility study to the Council.

Staff has analyzed the project and feels that the project is necessary, cost-effective, and feasible from an engineering standpoint.

## **Attachments:**

Resident Correspondence

## Chad Millner

---

**From:** Wayne Houle  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** Chad Millner; Sharon Allison  
**Subject:** FW: Attn: City Council and Engineering

Please include with the report that will go to the City Council on December 5th.

Wayne Houle, Director of Engineering  
952-826-0443 | Fax 952-826-0392  
[WHoule@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:WHoule@EdinaMN.gov) | [www.EdinaMN.gov](http://www.EdinaMN.gov)  
...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

-----Original Message-----

From: Lynette Biunno On Behalf Of Edina Mail  
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2012 1:47 PM  
To: Wayne Houle  
Cc: Susan Howl  
Subject: FW: Attn: City Council and Engineering

Good afternoon,

This message has been forwarded to the Mayor and Council members and Wayne Houle.

Lynette Biunno, Receptionist  
952-927-8861 | Fax 952-826-0389  
[lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov) | [www.EdinaMN.gov](http://www.EdinaMN.gov)  
...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business -----Original Message-----  
From: Rick Hammond [<mailto:hammond@mac.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, November 25, 2012 2:36 PM  
To: Edina Mail  
Subject: Attn: City Council and Engineering

I am writing about the roadway improvements for Lake Edina Neighborhood that seems like a breach of fiduciary trust. My concern is the initial estimates were half of the new \$12,500 assessment estimates, which does little for my trust in the City of Edina. The new dollar amount is truly unacceptable.

Like many families over the past few years we have had both job and financial struggles, but we kept our family together and have been able to keep our home. You are assigning us a huge financial obligation for new curbs and asphalt on our street, which seems incredibly bloated. What else must my family give up?

Please reconsider your choices. We are prepared to tighten our belts for the \$6,000+ our friends in other parts of Edina paid to have their streets re-done. Otherwise honestly let the road continue to deteriorate, because a roof over our head is where I would rather put our money.

Sincerely,

Rick

---

Rick L. Hammond

Mobile: 612-804-5931

Email: [hammond@mac.com](mailto:hammond@mac.com)

---

## Chad Millner

---

**From:** Chuck Wojack <cwojack@Sebesta.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 18, 2012 7:15 PM  
**To:** Wayne Houle  
**Cc:** Kelley Wojack; lyonthomash@MSN.com; Sharon Allison; Chad Millner; Jamie Cynor  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Edina Roadway Reconstruction - objection to sidewalk  
**Attachments:** Photos Trillium and Hibiscus.pdf

Wayne:

I sent this to Jamie and hopefully he passed in on, but I wanted to make sure it is noted that there is strong opposition to the sidewalk in the Feasibility Report to be submitted to the City Council on November 20, 2012. The more I look into this sidewalk, the more I am convinced it is the wrong thing to do. Also based on the timing of events, I am concerned there is not enough time for the due diligence required to determine if and where sidewalks would best benefit the neighborhood, and how to incorporate the sidewalks into a neighborhood that was not designed for them and has evolved without them. What was noted as a recommendation in the ETC meeting on 10/25 as a suggestion, now appears to be in the project.

Based on the typical sections and the plans presented at the November 7 meeting, I believe there are issues with our property (7212 Trillium) and the property at 4754 Hibiscus that are not addressed. As noted below, there is a significant slope to the curb which will need to be addressed.

I appreciate you looking into this and would like the opportunity to discuss this with you if you are available. You can reach me on my cell phone at 952-239-3816. Please confirm receipt of this e-mail.

Sincerely,

**Chuck Wojack**  
Project Manager  
Sebesta Blomberg  
sebesta.com | P 651.634.7275 | M 952.239.3816 | F 651.634.7400

*This message has been sent via the Internet. Internet communications are not secure against interception or modification. Sebesta Blomberg therefore cannot guarantee that this message has not been modified in transit. This message and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the addressee. If you have received this message in error please notify the sender and destroy your copies of the message and any attached files.*

---

**From:** Chuck Wojack  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 07, 2012 6:01 AM  
**To:** 'jcynor@EdinaMN.gov'  
**Cc:** 'Kelley Wojack'  
**Subject:** RE: Lake Edina Roadway Reconstruction - objection to sidewalk

Chad:

I am unavailable to attend the informational meeting on Nov. 7, 2012 and wanted to make my objection noted regarding the ETC recommendation to install a sidewalk along the east side of Normandale Road from West 70<sup>th</sup> Street to Hibiscus Avenue and along the north side Hibiscus Ave from Normandale Road to West Shore Drive.

We oppose the sidewalk on multiple levels, as a home owner, as a resident of the neighborhood and tax payer.

1. We have been residents of Edina living at 7212 Trillium Lane for over 15 years. The proposed sidewalk will run along the south edge of our property and we feel would cause undue hardship to us as residents and reduce our property value. The proposed sidewalk would require significant modifications to our property including loss of mature trees, modification of the existing grade and relocation of a stucco fence at a minimum. The grade slopes considerably from our fence to the top of the existing curb (over 2 ft drop in 9 ft). Without seeing a design, there appears to be considerable technical challenges due to the grade in our yard and adjacent lots. See attached photos.
2. As a resident of the neighborhood, we use the streets regularly for walking our dogs and jogging. I am also a regular bike commuter (2 -3 times per week weather permitting to work). We use the streets extensively in our neighborhood and we do not think a sidewalk would be a benefit to our neighborhood. The streets are wide enough for us to safely walk our dogs on Normandale Road and Hibiscus Ave. Our view appears to be consistent with our neighbors as only 8.5% of the residents surveyed indicated that they see a need to add sidewalk in our neighborhood.
3. As a tax payer, we do not think it is prudent to spend money on a sidewalk the residents do not have a need for and or want. There are surely more pressing concerns we can spend our money on.

In summary, we think the sidewalk would cause us undue harm, is not needed or wanted by the residents and is a waste of tax payers funds. I appreciate the city looking at options, but we do not think this option is worthy of future consideration. As stated above, I am unavailable to attend due to travels for business, but I am extremely interested in finding out why this is being considered and what the process is oppose this.

Please feel free to forward this to the ETC and others as you feel appropriate.

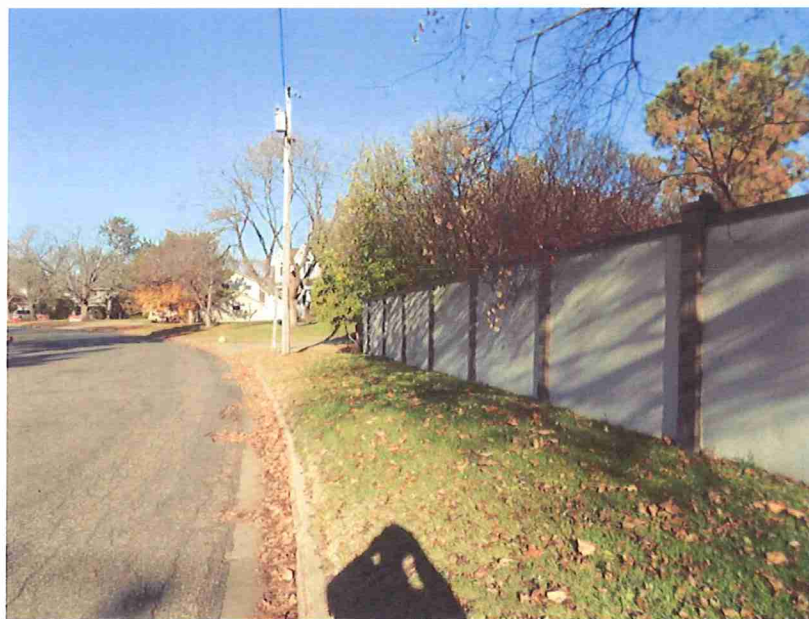
Any questions, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

**Chuck and Kelley Wojack**  
7212 Trillium Lane  
Home Phone – 952-927-7919  
Chuck's mobile - 952-239-3816



Corner of Trillium Lane and Hibiscus



South edge of 7212 Trillium Lane

## Chad Millner

---

**From:** Gary Freie <gary.freie@vomela.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 21, 2012 9:07 AM  
**To:** Chad Millner  
**Subject:** Lake Edina Sidewalk, Please forward this on to the Council

Chad/Council members,

After attending the information meeting about the sidewalk proposal, I'm at a loss as to why this is even being discussed. After two surveys with and without assentments it is very clear that 82% of our neighborhood does not want any sidewalks built or the Normandale Road narrowed. Many of us were shocked to find out that the plan was to build it on the eastside of Normandale Rd. and the north side of Hibiscus, there are 9 streets to cross from the golf course to 70<sup>th</sup> street. It would make the most sense to build it on other side of the street where it has far less impact and there is only one street to cross. The curved part of the road coming into the neighborhood would have to be rebuilt away from the wall to make room for the sidewalk away from the wall, Instead of reworking and narrowing the whole length of Normandale Rd. Also comes the question of maintenance and who's reasonable? We already have to take care of the city trees on Normandale Rd. like trimming them and disposing of the limbs at our expense. I don't feel that the transportation team thought this sidewalk project out very well and how it impacts the residents.

Many are hoping that something gets done with the highway 100 wall and landscaping instead, like beautifying it and adding height to it. The some 70 houses that are close have to suffer year round though the consistent highway roar that never stops 24/7. It really is more of a concrete fence than a sound wall.

It would also be nice to have some city services done that other cities provide like cleaning and opening storm drains, opening the compose site a couple times a year to residents, having a once a year junk and hazardous cleanup drop off day. Having the police focus on ways of making intersections, roadway and road approaches safe and improving traffic flow and matching stop and go light times with traffic flow. Focusing on real crime and problem areas instead of parking on the highways getting an award for how many tickets they write in a year. Every officer should be challenged with that thought of how and where do I make the best use of my time to make the city and residents safe and how to improve traffic flow.

Gary & Julie Freie  
4921 Trillium Lane  
Edina, MN 55435

## Chad Millner

---

**From:** Liz Horstman <lizhorstman@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2012 9:42 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Cc:** Chad Millner; Robb Horstman  
**Subject:** RE: Lake Edina Sidewalk Proposal. Please forward to Mayor Hovland and the Edina City Council.  
**Attachments:** doc20121115101429.pdf

(City of Edina, please forward this message on to Mayor Hovland and the Edina City Council members. Thank you.)

Mayor Hovland, Edina City Council members,

My husband and I attended an Edina Engineering Department sponsored, Lake Edina neighborhood meeting on Wednesday November 7, 2012. One of the main topics of this meeting was the proposal by the Edina Transportation Commission to install a sidewalk on Normandale Road to Hibiscus Avenue to Kellogg Avenue. The Engineering Department did a thorough job drawing up plans to show neighborhood residents the proposed route of the sidewalk. This proposed route is down the east side of Normandale Avenue, continuing along the north side of Hibiscus Avenue and either ending where Hibiscus Avenue dead ends into Kellogg Avenue or continuing south on the east side of Kellogg Avenue to the dead end adjacent to Fred Richards Golf Course and Lake Edina Park.

Living at 4708 Hibiscus Ave. on the north side of the road where the sidewalk is planned, my husband and I have a number of concerns regarding the proposed sidewalk and the process leading up to its recommendation. I am asking that you take the time to read the memo attached below outlining our concerns, this memo is 2 pages long followed by 5 pages of documentation/maps. I met with Chad Millner, Edina Engineering Department, and have done my best to research the entire process and situation in an attempt to provide accurate information.

I appreciate the time and effort the Edina Engineering Department has given to speak to me individually, as well as to prepare and present the sidewalk proposal to the neighborhood. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter, I would be happy to discuss this proposal or my memo with anyone interested. My contact information is below.

Liz Horstman  
4708 Hibiscus Ave.  
(mobile) 612-207-4477  
(home) 952-920-3460 - generally used for messages only

Begin forwarded message:



## Normandale/Hibiscus Sidewalk Recommended by the Edina Transportation Committee, Oct 25 2012 Meeting

NOTE: Survey of residents (~50 responders): Initial response 9% would like sidewalks; after change to no assessment for sidewalks 18% would like sidewalks.

Concerns: This does not appear to be part of a well thought out, long range comprehensive plan that considers multi-disciplinary issues (i.e. walking, biking, driving, trail connections, desires of and impact on homeowners).

### 1. Planning and decision-making regarding the Normandale/Hibiscus sidewalk.

#### a. How was this decision made?

The only obvious reference is Page 4 of 10/25/12 Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) Meeting Minutes, "Member Janový recommended a sidewalk on Normandale Road to Hibiscus Avenue to Kellogg Avenue because of speed and volume and to connect with the Nine Mile Trail that is coming soon." See pg 1 attached.

There is no information given regarding the reason for this recommendation or any explanation of how this sidewalk would connect to the Nine Mile Trail.

#### b. Why is a sidewalk being recommended that does not reflect the City of Edina's overall, comprehensive plan?

The City of Edina's 2008 Comprehensive Plan, Sidewalk Facilities, figure 7.10 shows the only proposed sidewalks in the Lake Edina area form a square from West Shore Drive to Gleason Avenue to Oaklawn Ave. and around the west side of Cornelia Park to 70<sup>th</sup> Street. (Although these sidewalks were not put in when the streets on the northern quadrant of this square were rebuilt about 3 years ago.) See pg 2 attached.

### 2. Where will the Normandale/Hibiscus sidewalk go? What is the purpose?

Proposed for the **east side** of frontage road south of 70<sup>th</sup> street, Normandale Rd, to continue on the **north side** of Hibiscus Ave., one side of the street only. Two different end points have been discussed.

#### a. End where Hibiscus Ave. dead ends into Kellogg Ave. ("....Normandale Road to Hibiscus Avenue to Kellogg Avenue...") as proposed by ETC.

#### b. Continue the sidewalk along the southern portion of Kellogg Ave to the dead end adjacent to Lake Edina Park as suggested by the City of Edina Engineering Department (See picture, map of this area on pgs 4, 5 attached.)

Option 2a. would result in a sidewalk that does not lead anywhere, and may not be supported based on the number of cars traveling on Normandale Road, Hibiscus Ave. and Kellogg Ave.

According to the City of Edina Engineering Department, about 1000 cars/day travel on the very north section of Normandale Ave. just south of 70<sup>th</sup> Street. Proceeding south on Normandale Ave. this number drops off quickly as cars turn into the adjacent streets. At the south end Normandale Ave. curves and becomes Hibiscus Ave.; there are only 200 cars/day traveling on Hibiscus Ave. well below the 500 car/day threshold used by the city to determine sidewalk necessity.

Option 2b. could **potentially** provide access to Parklawn Ave., and from there to Centennial Lakes Park and The Edina Blvd., and also to Gallagher Drive, which has been narrowed and constructed for Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail inclusion.

However, construction of a pathway would be needed across the south end of Lake Edina Park to provide this access, (pgs 4, 5). Although on the City of Edina's 2008 Comprehensive Plan, Bicycle Facilities, Figure 7.11, (see pg 3) would construction of this pathway be problematic as has been the Sidewalks portion of the Plan (pg 2). ?

Additionally about 15 years ago after a neighborhood meeting, John Kaprios decided against recommending the construction of a Lake Edina planned play area for which the footprint had been established (see picture attached). His explanation was safety concerns due to golf balls coming over the fence from Fred Richards's golf course. Would this concern also impact construction of a pathway?

3. Is the impact to homeowners bordering the sidewalk onerous?
  - a. Cost of snow removal. This would be a neighborhood sidewalk meaning the homeowners on the side of the street with the sidewalk are responsible for snow removal and related costs. (Unlike a School, State-Aid or Business sidewalk which the City of Edina generally plows.).
  - b. Home values. With this being the only neighborhood sidewalk in the Lake Edina area, would the value of homes on the sidewalk be less relative to the value of the homes not on the sidewalk due to maintenance costs and concerns? This is unlike an area such as Country Club where there is parity because there are sidewalks on both sides of all streets in the neighborhood.
4. Footprint of Normandale Rd., Hibiscus Ave., and Kellogg Ave with sidewalk in place.
  - a. The width of these streets with a sidewalk in place would decrease to ~27 feet while the width of all other streets in the neighborhood remain at 31' – 32'. Is this inconsistency within one neighborhood a concern?
  - b. The City of Edina 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update, Bicycle Facilities, Figure 7.11 (attached) shows a Primary Route on Hibiscus Ave east from West Shore Drive south on Kellogg Ave. through Lake Edina Park to Parklawn Ave. Has this been considered? How does it match up with the proposed sidewalk?

Member Janovy said the BETF said West Shore Drive is a primary bike route and recommended separated bike lanes or road markings and signage. Member Iyer concurred and recommended dedicated bike lanes. He said parking should not be an issue because there is a parking lot nearby. Member Janovy suggested an off-road trail for consideration. Director Houle said he will schedule an informational meeting with residents to share the suggestions and gather feedback.

Braemar Hills B, St. Patrick's Lane, Gleason Circle

These three neighborhoods will be presented in one feasibility study but they will be approved separately by City Council. Proposed improvements are spot repair to curb and gutter and new pavement. Proposed assessments are: Braemar Hills B: \$9,325, St. Patrick's Lane: \$11,300, and Gleason Circle: \$11,600.

Lake Edina

Proposed improvements are spot repair to curb and gutter and new pavement, plus narrowing the curb line at Hibiscus Avenue & West Shore Drive to reduce storm water run-off. Proposed assessment is \$11,900.

Member Janovy recommended a sidewalk on Normandale Road to Hibiscus Avenue to Kellogg Avenue because of speed and volume and to connect with the Nine Mile trail that is coming soon. Director Houle said he will schedule an informational meeting with residents to share the suggestion and gather feedback.

Traffic Safety Committee Report of Oct. 3, 2012

There were no action items in this report. Director Houle will follow up on the counts that were done in member Whited's neighborhood and on W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street.

Updates

Student Members

Member Schwieger noted that 'fascism' was still painted on the stop sign. Director Houle will follow up on this.

Bike Edina Task Force – Sept. 13, 2012 Minutes

A new member was added to the BEFT.

Living Streets Working Group

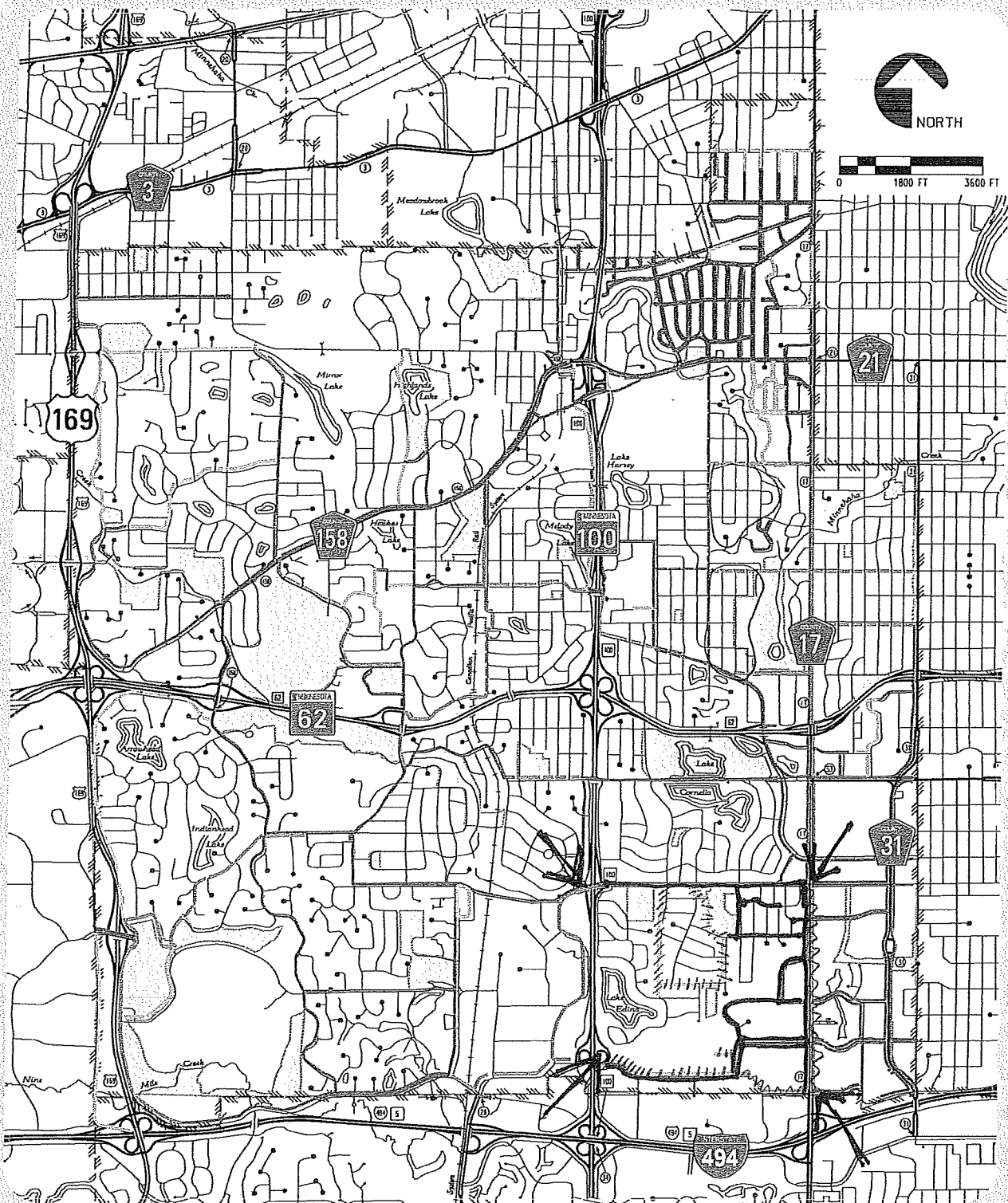
No update.

Transportation Options Working Group

Received minutes of Sept. 18, 2012. Member Whited reported that John Dillery and Jill Hentges from Metro Transit attended the Sept. 18 meeting and talked about Metro Transit's transportation options in Edina.

Member Janovy said the time limit is up for this working group and asked if the ETC would it to continue for another year.

Motion was made by member Franzen and seconded by member LaForce for the working group to continue for another year. Member Whited said they need new members. Director Houle will work with



**LEGEND:**

Existing Sidewalk

Proposed School / Business Sidewalk

Proposed State-Aid Sidewalk

Note: Park Pathways are included on Figure 7.11

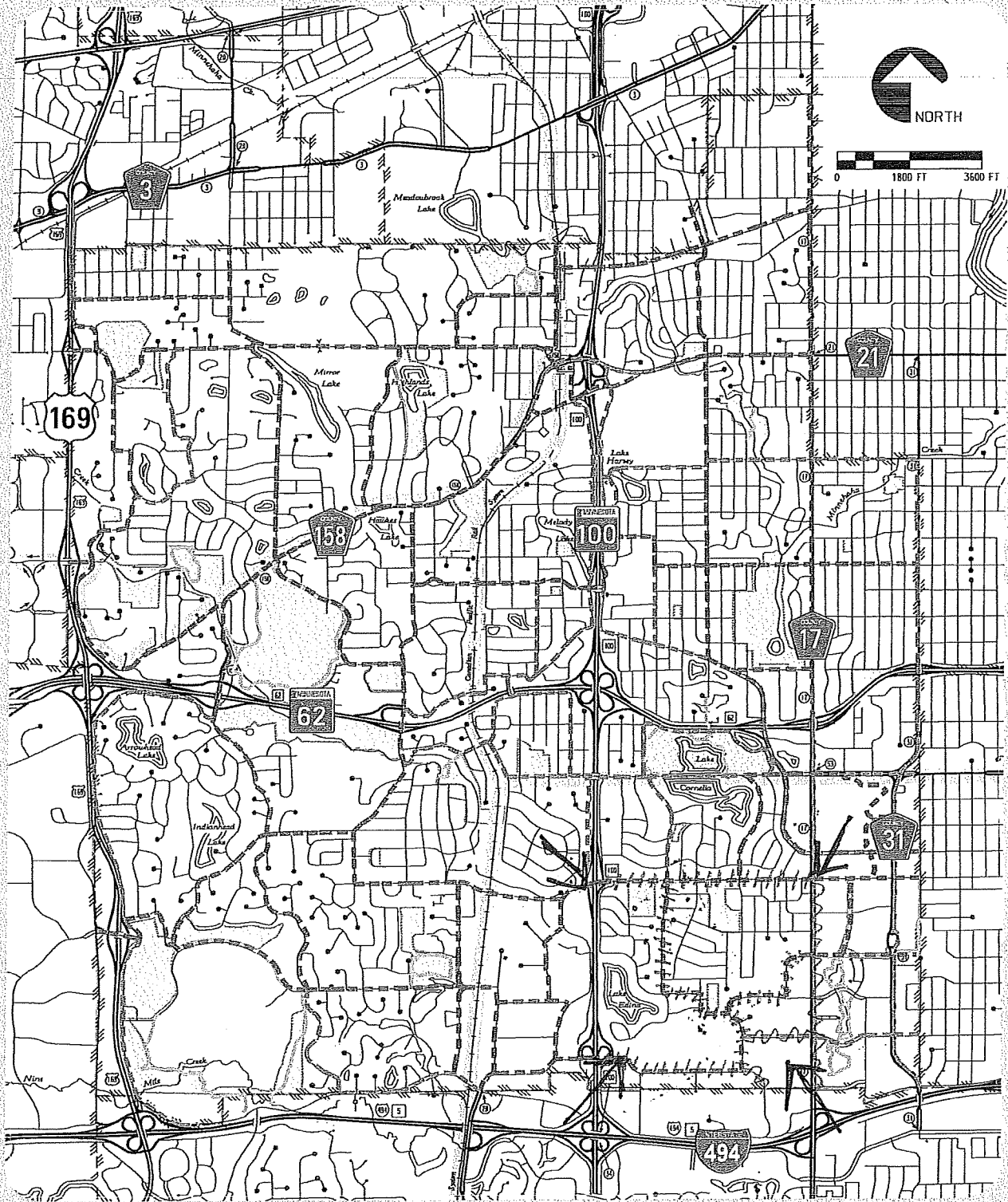


**City of Edina  
2008 Comprehensive Plan Update**

**Sidewalk Facilities**

Figure 7.10

2  
Lake Edina Neighborhood



**LEGEND:**

- Existing Park Pathway
- Existing Hennepin County Corridors
- Proposed Park Pathway

From the 2007 Edina Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan  
 Primary Route    Secondary Route



**City of Edina  
2008 Comprehensive Plan Update**

**Bicycle Facilities**

Figure 7.11



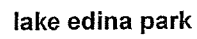
[View Larger Map](#)

Copy and paste this HTML to embed in your website

- (A) = Lake Edina Park
- (B) = Playground Footprint
- (C) = Kellogg Ave
- (D) = Kellogg Ave Dead End
- (E) = Park Lawn Ave
- (F) = Fence bordering Fred Richards Golf Course

(4)





## Chad Millner

---

**From:** Liza Etienne Koenig <liza.etienne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2012 7:28 PM  
**To:** Chad Millner  
**Subject:** sound barrier and sidewalk project in Lake Edina Neighborhood

Chad -- we met at the hearing you hosted about the sound barrier wall and sidewalks in the Lake Edina neighborhood. Thanks again for setting it up.

Two items:

1. Some of the neighbors on other blocks (non Larkspur Lane blocks) had asked about help with getting their blocks involved and active. I set up a private group on Nextdoor site for our neighborhood (I used the same boundaries that the city does) to join and share events, activities, vendors, resources, updates such as your meetings and city council meetings, sell/buy/trade stuff and form groups from gardening groups to walking groups and organize activities to work on the sound barrier garden or neighborhood night out. Would you mind helping us? If anyone in the Lake Edina Neighborhood reaches out to you, would you mind sending them a link to our neighborhood group?  
<https://nextdoor.com/invite/Ofib3eghc2wl9pj7q4nz>

2. You'd also suggested that we send you an email with our thoughts which you'd share with the city council before the meeting. I think you heard what the neighbors on Larkspur Lane think of the sound barrier wall. While we're not big fans of the graffiti either, we want to make sure that the community garden that we've nurtured for the last 5 years isn't damaged or harmed and therefore recommend that the city invest in additional plants for other blocks to organize around and plant along the retaining wall vs painting over the wall, possibly damaging our plantings and creating a beautiful new canvas for graffiti artists to come in and paint on once again and for MNDOT to paint over with a color that does not match. We believe that plants are a less expensive and greener alternative and maintaining each block's respective gardens has the potential to bring other neighbors together like it's brought our block together. Our planting 5 years ago cost the city about \$1000 and that included a truck to water it once a week for the first year. Our block supplied all of the labor, fertilizer and for year 1 and 2 extra water.

Let me know if you have any questions or if I can do anything else to help.

Liza Etienne Koenig  
4905 Larkspur Lane  
612-867-1413  
[liza.etienne@gmail.com](mailto:liza.etienne@gmail.com)

Sent from my iPad



**JOHN C. DEMOSS**  
4716 Hibiscus Avenue  
Edina, Minnesota 55435-2024  
Phone 952-920-0300



November 26, 2012

City of Edina  
Attention: Engineering  
7450 Metro Blvd.  
Edina, MN 55435

**RE:** Notice of Public Hearing, Proposed Improvement No. BA-398

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I are owners of 4716 Hibiscus Ave, Edina, MN 55435, which is one of the properties to be considered for the above proposed improvement. We have lived in this property since 1965 and have watched the taxes increase each year. I have attended each owner meeting regarding this matter and I am not convinced that this is the best way to handle the matter. While the cost of the sidewalk is apparently paid for by the city the cost of maintaining the sidewalk far outweighs the benefit to the owner of the property.

If you have any questions about this please feel free to call.

Very truly yours,

JOHN C. DEMOSS

By   
John C. DeMoss

JCDeM:cmv

## Chad Millner

---

**From:** Chad Millner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 1:09 PM  
**To:** 'donald\_anderson@juno.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Sidewalks for the Lake Edina Neighborhood Roadway Reconstruction Project

Don,

Thanks for the comments. We would like for you to share your opinion at the Dec. 11 council meeting. Please remember each person gets 3 minutes for comment so plan out what you intend to say. I'll answer your questions in the order you asked them.

1. As we discussed at the Nov. 7 Meeting, Chapter 12 of the City Coded states:

***1200.03 Sidewalks.***

***Subd. 1 Snow and Ice Removal.*** All snow and ice shall be removed from a sidewalk by the owner of the property adjoining the sidewalk within 48 hours of the cessation of the precipitation.

2. The City would not plow this sidewalk if it were installed.
3. The following section answers your question if snow is not removed. The cost of removal is charged only to that property owner responsible for the nuisance (snow):

***1200.05 Abatement of Nuisance.*** Any obstruction or encumbrance as described in Subd. 1 of Subsection 1200.02 or any snow or ice not removed from a sidewalk as provided in Subd. 1 of Subsection 1200.03 or any defect in a sidewalk as described in Subd. 2 of Subsection 1200.03 or grass or weeds not cut as provided in Subd. 3 of Subsection 1200.03 is hereby declared a nuisance. After at least seven days written notice to the person responsible for the nuisance, the City may cause said nuisance to be removed or abated and the cost of removal or abatement may be charged and assessed against the property owned by the person responsible for the nuisance. Such charge and assessment shall be done pursuant to Subd. 4 of Subsection 1200.06. When so assessed, the cost shall be certified to the County Auditor for collection as other taxes are collected. The name and address of the person responsible for such nuisance shall be obtained from records maintained by the Assessor.

4. As stated above, even when the property owner is away, they are still responsible for snow removal.

I can't give you an exact cost if snow removal is done by City forces. It depends on the specific staff person and equipment used to remove the snow. I also do not know how property values would be affected by adding a sidewalk in this neighborhood. In my experience, I have not seen a significant change in property values up or down by the installation of a sidewalk.

Thanks,  
Chad



**Chad Millner, Assistant City Engineer**

952-826-0318 | Fax 952-826-0392

cmillner@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

**From:** donald\_anderson@juno.com [mailto:donald\_anderson@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 11:54 AM  
**To:** Chad Millner  
**Subject:** Sidewalks for the Lake Edina Neighborhood Roadway Reconsturction Proje ct

Dear Mr. Millner,

My name is Don Anderson and I live at 4908 Larkspur Lane which is a corner lot along the frontage road south of 70th St. I attended the informational meeting on Nov 7, 2012 at which time you discussed the proposed sidewalk construction and I have concerns about the winter maintenance of these sidewalks. I would like to get information before the upcoming December 11th City Council meeting so I can present my views about the proposed sidewalk construction. You mentioned that you would be the person to contact about this information.

First, would there be a requirement for the sidewalks to be cleared of snow in the winter. If so, who would be responsible for this requirement. The sidewalk would be to the West and North of my property and it would amount to 275 feet along the frontage road curb line. I doubt I could physically shovel or snow blow such a lengthy span of sidewalk.

Second, if the sidewalks need to be cleared of snow, would the city do that as the city does for the sidewalks along 70th Street? Would the maintenance be at no charge to the residents, or would they be charged?

Third, if the city does the snow removal on the sidewalks, and charges the residents, how is the charge made? Is cost divided up among all properties along the sidewalk which stretches southward down the frontage road and then eastward along the front of peoples' properties along Hibiscus Ave. and beyond? Or is it calculated on a per frontage foot basis charged to the individual property owners? I would think spreading the cost out to all property owners would be difficult since some would want to do it themselves. As you can imagine, my concern is I have such a large amount of frontage (actually sideage and backage) that the charge on a per-foot basis would be quite burdensome for me.

Fourth, even if a property owner wanted to clear the sidewalk of snow, there would be times that he/she couldn't, such as during illness or out-of-town travel. Many leave for a month or more in the winter for a break from the winter weather.

I feel that snow removal charges would not only be a financial burden on me throughout the winter, but it would negatively impact the value and saleability of my house. There are 547 feet of curb line from the corner of Larkspur Lane to the sidewalk at 70th Street. My property abuts 275 feet and I'm not sure if the other property owners who would be affected at the sides and rears of their properties are aware of this possible expense.

As you can see, I am very concerned about the financial impact this sidewalk project would have on my property. I would like to get information for the Council meeting so I and the other affected property owners can get a full picture of the on-going costs and how our property values would be effected. I would like to get information on if charges would be made for the maintenance of these sidewalks, how the charges would be computed, and how much the charges would be.

Sincerely yours,

Don Anderson

## Chad Millner

---

**From:** Lynette Biunno on behalf of Edina Mail  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 3:29 PM  
**To:** Chad Millner  
**Cc:** Susan Howl  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Edina Roadway Reconstruction

Good afternoon,

This message has been forwarded to the Mayor and Council members and Chad Millner.



**Lynette Biunno, Receptionist**

952-927-8861 | Fax 952-826-0389  
[lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov) | [www.EdinaMN.gov](http://www.EdinaMN.gov)

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

---

**From:** [Vicoula4@aol.com](mailto:Vicoula4@aol.com) [<mailto:Vicoula4@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 3:20 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Lake Edina Roadway Reconstruction

Attn: City council and Engineering:

I am extremely concerned about the continuing discussion of adding sidewalks to the Edina street project, basically adding expense to an already expensive street proposition. I fail to understand why the discussion is continuing on adding sidewalks when a mailed-in questionnaire indicated that 70% of respondents were opposed. We have lived in Edina for more than 30 years and raised 4 children without the sidewalks.

Understand from the mailed in questionnaires--70% of the respondents indicated...we don't want sidewalks! It seems as if you think overtime on how to spend our money on useless projects--like the "ice house" at Cornelia that is used maybe 4-6 weeks of the year--and the bike lanes on Wooddale Avenue.

Where does budgeting and eliminating wasteful spending come into play? Edina used to have a favorable tax base. Not any more.

Enough already!

Vicki Withers

## Chad Millner

---

**From:** Brian Hedberg <bhedberg@readycreditcorp.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 06, 2012 11:15 AM  
**To:** jhovland@krausehovland.com; 'joshsprague@edinarealty.com'; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast); Edina Mail; swensonann1@gmail.com; Scott Neal; Edina Mail  
**Cc:** Wayne Houle; Chad Millner; Brian Hedberg  
**Subject:** Lake Edina Neighborhood Sidewalk & Sound Wall Beautification-Proposed Improvement BA-398

Dear Edina City Council, Administration, and Transportation Committee Members,

We are writing today to express our concerns regarding the proposed sidewalk and sound barrier improvements in the Lake Edina Neighborhood. The proposed additions are being considered within the Lake Edina Neighborhood Roadway reconstruction improvement no. BA-398.

### **SIDEWALK PROPOSAL OBJECTION**

We respectfully request that the Council reject the Transportation Committees recommendation to create a new sidewalk within the Lake Edina neighborhood. Alternatively, we do support a short (protected) pathway from Kellogg Ave to Parklawn Ave (that traverses East-West across the north end of Fred Richards golf course aka Lake Edina Park).

### **SOUND BARRIER BEAUTIFICATION SUPPORT**

We respectfully request that the City Council approve a neighborhood SUPPORTED plan to enhance/beautify the Hwy 100 sound barrier wall that runs South of 70<sup>th</sup> street along Normandale Boulevard.

Unfortunately, we are not able to attend the public hearing on Dec 11<sup>th</sup> due to a scheduling conflict. As such, we are providing below a number of comments that substantiate our request/recommendation (as well as those of our neighbors). We trust that you will take some time to thoughtfully consider our requests/recommendations and act on the input and desires of our many neighbors.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Brian and Lori Hedberg  
4913 Trillium Lane  
Edina, MN  
952.929.2647  
[bhedberg@comcast.net](mailto:bhedberg@comcast.net)

### **SIDEWALK PROPOSAL OBJECTIONS**

At the informational meeting held on Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Wayne Houle and Chad Millner presented the following overview of the sidewalk and sound barrier wall proposals:

[http://edinamn.gov/edinfiles/files/City\\_Offices/Engineering/Construction\\_Projects/Lake\\_Edina/Lake\\_Edina\\_SidewalkP\\_P\\_110712.pdf](http://edinamn.gov/edinfiles/files/City_Offices/Engineering/Construction_Projects/Lake_Edina/Lake_Edina_SidewalkP_P_110712.pdf)

Neighborhood comments include the following:

- The Lake Edina Neighborhood voted twice (overwhelmingly) against any sidewalk plans. In two separate polls – 1) in which Lake Edina Neighbors would be assessed directly for the sidewalk, and 2) under a scenario where the City funds the improvements through utility franchise fees (which the neighbors are still funding). It was noted that the response rate to both polls was very high (over 50% of the resident homes). This level of response indicates that the home owners are engaged and want to be a part of the decision process.

## Questionnaire Results

	% of Questionnaires Returned	Sidewalk Question
		Yes
10307_Edina_Background.jpg Questionnaire #1	56% (139 / 247)	9% (12)
Questionnaire #2	51% (127 / 247)	18% (23)

### Notes:

1. Questionnaire #1 prior to change in assessment policy for side
2. Sidewalks are not included in special assessments.

- The participants at the meeting asked the appropriate **KEY** question after seeing the results of both polls: “Why are we even having this discussion and why did you spend taxpayer dollars to generate a plan assessment?” Mr. Houle responded that the Transportation Committee made the recommendation and Engineering was following through. The engineering department did not have a position or recommendation on this matter.
- Mr. Houle stated that the proposed plan was an improvement on the Transportation Committee’s recommendation which he referred to as “the sidewalk to nowhere”. The “sidewalk to nowhere” essentially ran south from 70<sup>th</sup> street along Normandale Boulevard and then east on Hibiscus terminating at West Shore Drive. It did not connect to any park system, connect the neighborhood to any other neighborhood, and clearly did not take into account what the families living in the neighborhood communicated – that they did not see a need for sidewalks.
- The participants at the meeting were very upset about the sidewalk and asked Mr. Houle to recommend termination of the same. He asked them all to send letters and attend the Dec 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Neighborhood sentiment is that the Transportation Committee, without any merit, cause, justification, or representation from the Lake Edina neighborhood commissioned the City Engineering Department to expend resources and dollars to prepare a cost and feasibility study.
- Moreover, the Lake Edina neighbors feel that the meeting was held merely to demonstrate that process had been duly followed while fully expecting the City Council to blindly accept the recommendation. Again, against the will of the neighborhood.

Other key points were made at the meeting on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> (short list below). In addition, we submit other key concerns as it relates to the physical placement of the sidewalk in terms of cost to the project. We believe that the placement proposal (east side of Normandale and north side of Hibiscus) creates a much higher cost to the city and tax payers:

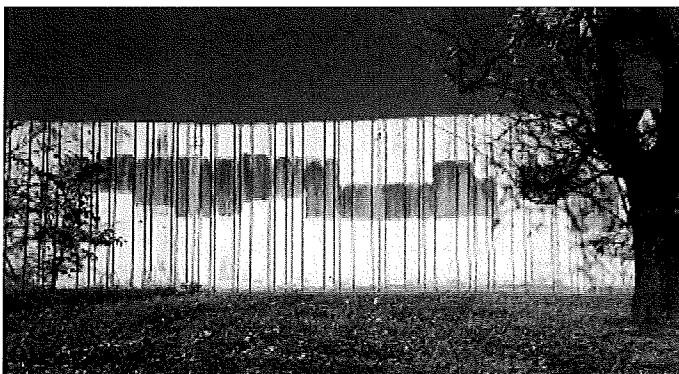
- The neighborhood roadway is safe and supports future growth in pedestrian traffic.
- Placement of the sidewalk on the East side of the proposed roadbed is the most costly option:
  - Requires transitions across eight feeder streets (more expensive cement transition work, additional signage, road marking and the movement of utilities)
  - As presented, the City would reduce the total roadbed width by three feet – driving up the cost of the project – which is not addressed in the road bed only plan.
    - Gutters and sewers are almost entirely on the East side of the road. All would need to be moved at great cost to align with the new curb system.
    - Concerns that a narrower roadbed would not support a future bike path without car traffic conflict.
  - Will negatively impact the mature trees that line the boulevard (proposal requires up to 10' of boulevard (7' of current grass and tree lined area). Roots of mature trees will be impacted and may lead to death of trees.
  - Homeowner watering lines, fire hydrants, fencing and pet containment systems will need to be relocated at additional cost.
- Homeowners directly impacted by a sidewalk on their property are be required to clean and maintain the same (to the advantage of the other neighbors). Many of these homeowners are already cutting and maintaining the trees on the boulevard as the City began to assess fees for trimming the same. They feel that a burden is unfairly being imposed on them when they and their neighbors have repeatedly communicated they do not want sidewalks.

We DO NOT support the proposed sidewalk plan and recommend that the City Council reject the same. Alternatively, we do support a short (protected) pathway from Kellogg Ave to Parklawn Ave (that traverses East-West across the north end of Fred Richards golf course aka Lake Edina Park). We believe that this would provide a thoughtful way to build better access and connections across the city.

### **SOUNDBARRIER PROPOSAL SUPPORT**

Wayne Houle and Chad Millner and the City have been very supportive of the neighborhoods desire to beautify its entrance and prevent/deter future graffiti on an aging 1970 vintage sound barrier wall. There is probably no uglier entrance to an Edina neighborhood than the Normandale entrance south of 70<sup>th</sup> street. This is perpetuated by the DOT's indifference to the wall; using whatever paint they have on hand to cover over the graffiti (see representative picture below).

### **Sound Wall – Normandale Rd from 70<sup>th</sup> Street to Hibiscus Ave**



Families on Larkspur Lane and Aspasia Lane (that feed onto Normandale Boulevard) initiated their own beautification program a few short years ago. They worked with the City to incorporate green, renewable plantings and maintain the same. The plantings have effectively deterred the graffiti although its evidence is still apparent in many places because it was not effectively removed before hand. The neighborhood is requesting that the City approve a plan that supports beautification along the entire wall with a watering system to ensure growth. In the past the City provided watering trucks and neighbors have used their water and hoses stretched across the road to ensure that the planting took root and have been able to survive the uncharacteristically dry and hot environment.

At the Nov 7 meeting two options were presented resulting in a third alternative that had broad neighborhood support. Specifically, power washing the wall to remove graffiti, permanent plantings and a watering system. The neighborhood has already demonstrated its desire and ability to beautify the sound barrier and stands prepared to maintain further renewable plantings in order to prevent/deter future graffiti.

We DO support this low cost option and recommend that the City Council approve the same.



## Chad Millner

---

**From:** Gary Freie <gary.freie@vomela.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 06, 2012 1:11 PM  
**To:** jhovland@krausehovland.com; 'joshsprague@edinarealty.com'; 'jonibennett12@comcast.net'; 'mbrindle@comcast.net'; 'mail@EdinaMN.gov'; 'swensonann1@gmail.com'; 'sneal@EdinaMN.gov'; 'edinamail@ci.edina.mn.us'  
**Cc:** 'whoule@EdinaMN.gov'; 'cmillner@EdinaMN.gov'  
**Subject:** Lake Edina Neighborhood sidewalk, sound wall and other city services to add to a future agenda.

Dear  
Edina City Council, Administration, and Transportation Committee Members,

After attending the information meeting about the sidewalk proposal, I'm at a loss as to why this is even being discussed. After two surveys with and without assentments it is very clear that 82% of our neighborhood does not want any sidewalks built or the Normandale Road narrowed. Many of us were shocked to find out that the plan was to build it on the eastside of Normandale Rd. and the north side of Hibiscus, there are 9 streets to cross from the golf course to 70<sup>th</sup> street. It would make the most sense to build it on other side of the street where it has far less impact and there is only one street to cross. The curved part of the road coming into the neighborhood would have to be rebuilt away from the wall to make room for the sidewalk away from the wall, Instead of reworking and narrowing the whole length of Normandale Rd. Also comes the question of maintenance and who's reasonable? We already have to take care of the city trees on Normandale Rd. like trimming them and disposing of the limbs at our expense. I don't feel that the transportation team thought this sidewalk project out very well and how it impacts the residents.

Many are hoping that something gets done with the highway 100 wall and landscaping instead, like beautifying it and adding height to it. The some 70 houses that are close have to suffer year round though the consistent highway roar that never stops 24/7. It really is more of a concrete fence than a sound wall.

It would also be nice to have some city services done that other cities provide like cleaning and opening storm drains, opening the compose site a couple times a year to residents, having a once a year junk and hazardous cleanup drop off day. Having the police focus on ways of making intersections, roadway and road approaches safe and improving traffic flow and matching stop and go light times with traffic flow. Focusing on real crime and problem areas instead of parking on the highways getting an award for how many tickets they write in a year. Every officer should be challenged with that thought of how and where do I make the best use of my time to make the city and residents safe and how to improve traffic flow.

Gary & Julie Freie  
4921 Trillium Lane  
Edina, MN 55435